

NATIONAL INTELLIGENCER.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE.

The President of the United States yesterday transmitted the following Message to both Houses of Congress:

Fellow-citizens of the Senate and of the House of Representatives:

I congratulate you and our common constituency upon the favorable auspices under which you meet for your first session. Our country is at peace with all the world. The agitation which for a time threatened to disturb the fraternal relations which make us one people is fast subsiding; and a year of general prosperity and health has crowned the nation with unusual blessings. None can look back to the dangers which are passed, or forward to the bright prospect before us, without feeling a thrill of gratification, at the same time that he must be impressed with a grateful sense of our profound obligations to a beneficent Providence, whose paternal care is so manifest in the happiness of this highly favored land.

Since the close of the last Congress, certain Cubans and other foreigners resident in the United States, who were more or less concerned in the previous invasion of Cuba, instead of being discouraged by its failure, have again abused the hospitality of this country, by making it the scene of the equipment of another military expedition against that possession of her Catholic Majesty, in which they were countenanced, aided, and joined by citizens of the United States. On receiving intelligence that such designs were entertained, I lost no time in issuing such instructions to the proper officers of the United States as seemed to be called for by the occasion. By the proclamation, a copy of which is herewith submitted, I also warned those who might be in danger of being inveigled into this scheme of its unlawful character, and of the penalties which they would incur. For some time there was reason to hope that these measures had sufficed to prevent any such attempt. This hope, however, proved to be false. Very early in the morning of the third of August, a steamer called the *Panpero* departed from New Orleans for Cuba, having on board upwards of four hundred armed men, with evident intentions to make war upon the authorities of the island. This expedition was set on foot in palpable violation of the laws of the United States. Its leader was a Spaniard, and several of the chief officers, and some others engaged in it, were foreigners. The persons composing it, however, were mostly citizens of the United States.

Before the expedition set out, and probably before it was organized, a slight insurrectionary movement, which appears to have been soon suppressed, had taken place in the eastern quarter of Cuba. The importance of this movement was unfortunately so much exaggerated in the accounts of it published in this country, that these adventurers seem to have been led to believe that the Creole population of the island not only desired to throw off the authority of the mother country, but had resolved upon that step, and had begun a well-concerted enterprise for effecting it. The persons engaged in the expedition were generally young and ill-informed. The steamer in which they embarked left New Orleans stealthily and without a clearance. After touching at Key West, she proceeded to the coast of Cuba, and on the night between the 11th and 12th of August landed the persons on board at Playitas, within twenty leagues of Havana.

The main body of them proceeded to, and took possession of, an inland village six leagues distant, leaving others to follow in charge of the baggage, as soon as the means of transportation could be obtained. The latter, having taken up their line of march to connect themselves with the main body, and having proceeded about four leagues into the country, were attacked on the morning of the 13th by a body of Spanish troops, and a bloody conflict ensued; after which they retreated to the place of disembarkation, where about fifty of them obtained boats and re-embarked therein. They were, however, intercepted among the keys near the shore by a Spanish steamer cruising on the coast, captured, and carried to Havana, and, after being examined before a military court, were sentenced to be publicly executed, and the sentence was carried into effect on the 16th of August.

On receiving information of what had occurred, Commodore Foxhall A. Parker was instructed to proceed in the steam-frigate *Saranac* to Havana, and inquire into the charges against the persons executed, the circumstances under which they were taken, and whatever referred to their trial and sentence. Copies of the instructions from the Department of State to him, and of his letters to that Department, are herewith submitted.

According to the record of the examination, the prisoners all admitted to have been charged against them, of being hostile invaders of the island of Cuba. At the time of their capture, they were in the act of disembarking, and the execution of the main body of the invaders was still in the field, making war upon the Spanish authorities and Spanish subjects. After the lapse of some days, being overcome by the Spanish troops, they dispersed on the 4th of August. Lopez, their leader, was captured some days after, and executed on the 1st of September. Many of his remaining followers were killed, or died of hunger and fatigue, and the rest were made prisoners. Of these, none appear to have been tried or executed. Several of them were pardoned upon application of their friends and others, and the rest, about one hundred and sixty in number, were sent to Spain. Of the final disposition made of these we have no official information.

Such is the melancholy result of this illegal and ill-fated expedition. Thus thoughtless young men have been induced, by false and fraudulent representations, to violate the law of their country, through rash and unfounded expectations of aid from the Government, to engage in a war in other States, and have lost their lives in the undertaking. Too severe a judgment can hardly be passed, by the indignant sense of the community, upon those who, being better informed themselves, have yet led away the ardor of youth and an ill-directed love of political liberty. The correspondence between the Government and of Spain relating to this transaction is herewith communicated.

Although these offenders against the laws have forfeited the protection of their country, yet the Government may, so far as is consistent with its obligations to other countries, and its fixed purpose to maintain and enforce the laws, entertain sympathy for their unoffending families and friends, and endeavor to compensate for the wrongs suffered. Accordingly no proper effort has been spared, and none will be spared, to procure the release of such citizens of the United States, engaged in this unlawful enterprise, as are now in confinement in Spain; but it is to be hoped that such interposition with the Government of that country will be considered as an interference with the ground of expectation that the Government of the United States will hereafter feel itself under any obligation of duty to interfere for the liberation or pardon of such persons as are flagrant offenders against the law of nations and the laws of the United States. These laws must be executed. If we do not, we are inviting the world to enslave among the nations of the earth, it behooves us to enforce steadily and sternly the neutrality acts passed by Congress, and to follow, as far as may be, the violation of those acts with condign punishment.

But what gives a peculiar criminality to this invasion of Cuba, is that under the lead of Spanish subjects, and with the aid of citizens of the United States, it had its origin, with many, in motives of cupidity. Money was advanced by individuals, probably in considerable amounts, to purchase Cuban bonds, as they have been called, issued by the Cuban Government, and the proceeds were to be paid by the payment of which the public lands and the public property of Cuba, of whatever kind, and the fiscal resources of the people and government of that island, from whatever source to be derived, were pledged, as well as the good faith of the Government expected to be established. All these means of payment, if intended, were to be obtained by a process of bloodshed, war, and revolution. None will deny that those who set on foot military expeditions against foreign States by means like these, are far more culpable than the ignorant and the necessities which they induce to go forth as dishonorable parties in the proceeding. These originators of the invasion of Cuba seem to have determined, with coolness and system, upon an undertaking which should disgrace their country, violate its laws, and put to hazard the lives of ill-informed and deluded men. You will consider whether further legislation be necessary to prevent the perpetration of such offenses in future.

No individuals have a right to hazard the peace of the country or to violate its laws upon vague notions of altering or reforming Governments in other States. This principle is not only reasonable in itself, and in accordance with public law, but is engraved into the codes of other nations as well as our own. But, while such are the sentiments of this Government, it may be added that every independent nation must be presumed to be able to defend its possessions against unauthorized individuals banded together to attack them. The Government of the United States, at all times since its establishment, has declined and has sought to restrain the citizens of the country

from entering into controversies between other Powers, and to observe all the duties of neutrality. At an early period of the Government, in the administration of Washington, several laws were passed for this purpose. The main provisions of these laws were re-enacted by the act of April, 1818, by which, amongst other things, it was declared that if any person shall, within the territory or jurisdiction of the United States, begin or set on foot, or attempt to carry into effect, any military expedition or enterprise to be carried on from there against the territory or dominion of any foreign Prince or State, or of any colony, district, or people with whom the United States are at peace, every person so offending shall be deemed guilty of a high misdemeanor, and shall be fined not exceeding three thousand dollars, and imprisoned not more than three years; and this law has been executed and enforced, to the full extent of the power of the Government, from that day to this.

In proclaiming and adhering to the doctrine of neutrality and non-interference, that the United States have not taken, and that they should not take, any part in the quarrels of other nations, they have taken their stand, and have been followed by others. This was admitted by one of the most eminent of modern British statesmen, who said in Parliament, while a minister of the crown, "that, if he wished for a guide in a system of neutrality, he should look to the United States." In the days of the act of Congress, and the secretaryship of John Calhoun, and we see, in fact, that the act of Congress of 1818 was followed, the succeeding year, by an act of the Parliament of England substantially the same in its general provisions. Up to that time there had been no similar law in England, except that which prohibited English ships from carrying on foreign trade, the avowed object of which statute was, that foreign armies, raised for the purpose of restoring the house of Stuart to the throne, should not be strengthened by recruits from England herself.

All must see that difficulties may arise in carrying the law referred to into execution in a country now having three or four thousand miles of sea-coast, with an infinite number of ports and harbors and small inlets, from some of which unlawful expeditions may suddenly set forth, without the knowledge of Government, against the possessions of foreign States.

Our relations with all, but entangling alliances with none, has long been a maxim with us. Our true mission is not to propagate our opinions, as England upon other countries in form of Government, by artifice or force; but to teach by example, and show by our success, moderation and justice, the blessings of self-government, and the benefits of free institutions. Let every people choose for itself, and make and alter its political institutions to suit its own condition and convenience. But, while we avow and maintain this neutral policy ourselves, we are anxious to see the same neutrality on the part of other nations whose forms of government are different from ours. It is much to be deplored that the internal tranquillity of the Mexican Republic should be seriously disturbed; for since the peace between that republic and the United States it had enjoyed such comparative repose that the most favorable anticipations for the future might have been indulged. These, however, have been frustrated by the internal dissensions of the Mexican Republic, and the United States it had enjoyed such comparative repose that the most favorable anticipations for the future might have been indulged.

The Governments of Great Britain and France have issued orders to their naval commanders on the West India station to prevent by force, if necessary, the landing of adventurers from any nation on the Island of Cuba with hostile intent. The copy of a memorandum of conversation on this subject between the Acting Secretary of State and the British and French Ministers, and the copy of a subsequent note of the former to the Department of State, are herewith submitted, together with a copy of a note of the Acting Secretary of State to the Minister of the French Republic, and of the reply of the latter on the subject. These papers will acquaint you with the grounds of this interposition of the two leading commercial Powers of Europe, and with the apprehensions which this Government could not fail to entertain that such interposition, if carried into effect, might lead to abuses in derogation of the maritime rights of the United States. The maritime rights of the United States are founded on a firm and indisputable basis. The United States, on the ground of national independence and public law, will be maintained in all their full and just extent.

The principle which this Government has heretofore solemnly announced it still adheres to, and will maintain under all circumstances and at all hazards. That principle is, that the United States will not permit any vessel, the crew who navigate it, and those on board of it, to find their protection in the flag which is over them. No American ship can be allowed to be visited or searched for the purpose of ascertaining the character of individuals on board, nor can there be allowed any watch by the United States over the movements of such vessels on the coasts of the United States or the seas adjacent thereto. It will be seen by the last communication from the British Chargé d'Affaires to the Department of State that he is authorized to assure the Secretary of State that every care will be taken, in executing the preventive measures which the Government has undertaken, that the Government itself has denounced as not being entitled to the protection of any Government, no interference shall take place with the lawful commerce of any nation.

In addition to the correspondence on this subject, herewith submitted, the Department of State has received, from the Department of State of assurances by the French Government that, in the orders given to the French naval forces, they were expressly instructed, in any operations they might engage in, to respect the flag of the United States wherever it might appear, and to commit no act of hostility upon any vessel or armament under its protection.

Ministers and consuls of foreign nations are the means and agents of communication between us and those nations, and it is of the utmost importance that, while residing in this country, they should feel a perfect security so long as they are engaged in the discharge of their duties, and are guilty of no violation of our laws. This is the admitted law of nations, and no country has a deeper interest in maintaining it than the United States. Our commerce spreads over every sea and visits every clime, and our ministers and consuls are appointed to protect the rights of our citizens, and to maintain the peace of the country and maintain the honor of its flag. But how can they discharge these duties unless they be themselves protected? and, if protected, it must be by the laws of the country in which they reside. And what is our own public functionaries residing in foreign nations? They are the agents of our Government, and the representatives of our Governments residing here. As in the case of the bearers of flags of truce are sacred, or else war would be interminable, so in peace, ambassadors, public ministers, and consuls charged with friendly national intercourse, are objects of special respect and protection, and the laws of the country in which they reside, and the laws of the country, will be maintained in all their full and just extent.

It is understood that a considerable part of the railroad across the Isthmus of Panama has been completed, and that the mail and passengers will in future be conveyed thereon. The completion of the several routes between the two oceans may ultimately prove most eligible for travellers to and from the different States on the Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico, and our coast on the Pacific, there is little reason to doubt that all of them will be useful to the public, and will liberally reward that individual enterprise by which they have been or are expected to be carried into effect. Peace has been concluded between the contending parties in the Island of St. Domingo, and it is hoped upon a durable basis. Such is the extent of our commercial relations with that island that the United States cannot fail to feel a great interest in its tranquillity. The office of Commissioner to China remains unfilled; several persons have been appointed, and the place has been offered to others, all of whom have declined its acceptance, on the ground of the inadequacy of the compensation. The annual allowance by law is six thousand dollars, and there is no provision for any other. I earnestly recommended the consideration of this subject to Congress. Our commerce with China is highly important, and is becoming more and more so, in consequence of the increasing intercourse between our ports on the Pacific coast and Eastern Asia. China is understood to be a country that has been very expensive, and it is known to no reason why the American Commissioner sent thither should not be placed, in regard to compensation, on an equal footing with Ministers who represent this country at the courts of Europe.

By reference to the report of the Secretary of the Treasury it will be seen that the aggregate receipts for the last fiscal year amounted to \$82,312,979.87, while, with the balance in the Treasury on the 1st July, 1850, gave, as the available means for the year, the sum of \$68,917,524.86.

The expenditures for the same period were \$48,005,878.68. The total imports for the year ending 30th of June, 1851, were \$215,725,995. Of which there were in specie 4,967,901. The exports for the same period were 217,517,130. Of which there were of domestic products \$178,546,555. Foreign goods re-exported \$7,388,955. Specie 29,231,880.

Since the 1st of December last the payments in cash on account of the public debt, exclusive of those for interest, amounted to \$7,501,456.96; which, however, includes the sum of \$3,242,400 paid under the 12th article of the treaty with Mexico, and the further sum of \$2,501,213.45, being the amount of awards to American citizens under the late treaty with Mexico, for which the issue of stock was authorized, but which was paid in cash from the Treasury.

The public debt on the 20th ultimo, exclusive of the stock authorized to be issued to Texas by the act of 9th September, 1850, was \$62,560,895.26. The receipts for the year ending 30th of June, 1851, were \$51,800,000. The balance in the Treasury on the 30th June next, will give as the probable available means for that year the sum of \$63,258,748.09.

It has been deemed proper, in view of the large expenditures for the acquisition of territory from Mexico, that the estimate for the year ending 30th of June should be laid before Congress in such manner as to distinguish the expenditures so required from the otherwise ordinary demands upon the Treasury.

The total expenditures for the next fiscal year are estimated at \$48,992,299.19, of which there is required for

for Constantinople, instructing him to ask of the Turkish Government permission for the Hungarian, then imprisoned within the dominions of the Sublime Porte, to remove to this country. On the 3d of March last both Houses of Congress passed a resolution requesting the President to authorize the employment of a public vessel to convey to this country Louis Kosuth and his associates in captivity.

The instruction above referred to was complied with, and the Turkish Government having released Governor Kosuth and his companions from prison, on the 10th of September last they embarked on board of the United States steamer frigate *Mississippi*, which was selected to carry into effect the resolution of Congress. Governor Kosuth left the *Mississippi* at Gibraltar, for the purpose of making a visit to England, and may shortly be expected in New York. By communications to the Department of State he has expressed his grateful acknowledgments for the interposition of this Government in behalf of himself and his associates. This country has been justly regarded as a safe asylum for those whom political events have exiled from their own homes in Europe; and it is recommended to Congress to consider in what manner Gov. Kosuth and his companions, brought hither by its authority, shall be received and treated.

It is to be hoped that the differences which have for some time past been pending between the Government of the French Republic and that of the Sandwich Islands may be peaceably and durably adjusted, so as to secure the independence of those islands. Long before the events which have of late imparted so much importance to the subject of the Hawaiian Islands, the President acknowledged the independence of the Hawaiian Government. This Government was first in taking that step, and several of the leading Powers of Europe immediately followed. We were influenced in this measure by the existing and prospective importance of the islands as a place of refuge and refreshment for our vessels engaged in the whale fishery, and by the consideration that they lie in the course of the great trade which must, at no distant day, be carried on between the western coast of North America and Eastern Asia.

We were also influenced by the desire that those islands should be placed under the control of any other great maritime State, but should remain in an independent condition, and so be accessible and useful to the commerce of all nations. I need not say that the importance of these considerations has been greatly enhanced by the sudden and vast development which the interests of the United States have attained in California and the Pacific.

It is gratifying not only to those who consider the commercial interests of nations, but also to all who favor the progress of knowledge and the diffusion of religion, to see a community emerge from a savage state and attain such a degree of civilization as to have the repeal of the restrictive crown laws in England, the foreign demand for the products of the American farmer has steadily declined, since the short crops and consequent famine in a portion of Europe have been happily replaced by the full and comparative abundance of food.

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for military services. This fact furnishes very gratifying evidence of the growing wealth and prosperity of our country.

Suitable measures have been adopted for commencing the survey of the public lands in California and Oregon. Surveying parties have been organized, and some progress has been made in establishing the principal base and meridian lines, and in the preparation of maps. Appropriations will be necessary before the completion of these surveys can be made, and the general land system extended over those remote parts of our territory.

On the 3d of March last an act was passed providing for the appointment of three commissions to settle private land claims in California. Three persons were immediately appointed, all of whom, however, declined to accept the office, in consequence of the inadequacy of the compensation. Others were promptly selected, who, for the same reason, also declined; and it was not until late in the season that the services of suitable persons could be secured. A majority of the commissioners convened, in this city, on the 10th of September last, when detailed instructions were given to them in regard to their duties. Their first meeting for the transaction of business will be held in San Francisco on the 8th day of the present month.

I have thought it proper to refer to these facts, not only to explain the delay in filling the commissions, but also to call your attention to the property interest in the compensation of the commissioners. The office of one of great labor and responsibility, and the compensation should be such as to command men of high order of talents and the most unquestionable integrity.

The proper disposal of the mineral lands of California is a subject of great importance. In my last annual message I recommended the survey and sale of them in small parcels, under such restrictions as would be most effectually guard against monopoly and speculation. But upon further information, and in deference to the opinions of persons familiar with the subject, I am inclined to change that recommendation, and to advise that they be permitted to remain, as at present, a common field, open to the enterprise and industry of all our citizens, until further experience shall have developed the best policy to be ultimately adopted in regard to them. It is safer to suffer the inconveniences that now exist for a short period, than to incur the expense of a system of restriction, which is a subject founded in error, which may prevent the whole subject beyond the future control of Congress.

The agricultural lands should, however, be surveyed and brought into market with as little delay as possible, that the titles may become settled and the inhabitants of California may be enabled to improve and enter upon the ordinary pursuits of life. To effect this, it is desirable that the necessary provision be made by law for the establishment of land offices in California and Oregon, and for the efficient prosecution of the surveys at an early day.

Some difficulties have occurred in organizing the Territory of New Mexico. The Department of the Interior, when more accurate information shall be obtained of the cause, a further communication will be made on that subject. In my last annual communication to Congress I recommended the establishment of an Agricultural Bureau, and I take this occasion again to invoke your favorable consideration of the subject.

Agriculture may justly be regarded as the great interest of our people. Four-fifths of our active population are employed in the cultivation of the soil, and the rapid expansion of our settlements over new territory is daily adding to the number of those engaged in that vocation. Justice and sound policy, therefore, alike require that the Government should, by the means authorized by the Constitution to promote the interests and welfare of that important class of our fellow-citizens. And yet it is a singular fact that, whilst the manufacturing and commercial interests have engaged the attention of Congress during a large portion of every session, and our statutes abound in provisions for their protection and encouragement, little has yet been done directly for the advancement of agriculture. It is time that this reproach to our legislation should be removed; and I sincerely hope that the present Congress will not close their labors without adopting efficient means to supply the omissions of those who preceded them.

An Agricultural Bureau, charged with the duty of collecting and disseminating correct information as to the best modes of cultivation, and of the most effectual means of preserving and restoring the fertility of the soil, and of procuring and distributing seeds and plants and other vegetable products, and of making such improvements and arrangements as may be necessary for their